

Amendments to the claims

1-8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended) A mammalian NSO cell line that grows in a growth medium that is protein-free, serum-free, and free from further supplements, and has been adapted for such growth by a method comprising the following two stages:

I) a first stage wherein the cell line viability is between 80 and 100% and cells are grown in culture media with consecutive protein concentration reduction up to a critical protein concentration at which cell viability drops to 0%,

II) a second stage wherein once the critical concentration has been predetermined, then a pre-critical concentration is fixed as such protein concentration in which cellular growth is possible and said pre-critical concentration is the start point to slowly reduce the protein concentration up to a point where the cell culture reaches an initial cellular viability and population doubling time;

the second stage comprising the following steps:

I) seeding cells from a cell culture with a viability of 80% or higher growing in the pre-critical protein concentration in at least 3 wells at a density in a range of 2 to 6×10^5 cells/mL;

ii) growing the cells in the pre-critical protein concentration and after 48 hours replacing 25% of the supernatant with a fresh supply of the growth medium, thus rendering a final protein concentration of 75% of the pre-critical protein concentration;

iii) completely replacing each 48 hours the supernatant with a fresh culture medium having a protein concentration which is 75% of the pre-critical protein concentration;

iv) growing the cells to confluence under said protein concentration;

v) seeding the cells from step ~~(iii)~~ (iv) in at least 3 wells at a density in the range $2 \text{ to } 6 \times 10^5$ cells/mL in culture medium with a protein concentration which is 75% of the pre-critical protein concentration;

vi) replacing after 48 hours 25% of the supernatant with a fresh supply of the growth medium, thus rendering a final protein concentration which is 75% of the concentration of the previous step;

vii) completely replacing each 48 hours the supernatant with a fresh culture medium with a protein concentration which is 75% of the concentration of the concentration in step (v);

viii) growing the cells to confluence under said protein concentration;

ix) repeating steps from (v) to (viii) wherein during each cycle the protein concentration is reduced to 75% of the concentration of the previous cycle, then the procedure being repeated up to the attainment of a protein concentration which does not cause any loss of cell viability and decrease in population doubling time, when the cells are transferred to a medium with lower protein concentration and they are able to grow without any loss of cell viability and decrease in population doubling time before the first subculture wherein the cells reach the non-critical stage and are seeded directly in the growth medium (0 mg/mL of protein concentration).

10-11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The mammalian NSO cell line according to claim 9 wherein the NSO cell line contains a sequence encoding a recombinant polypeptide or a recombinant protein.

13. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The mammalian NSO cell line according to claim 12 wherein the sequence encoding a recombinant polypeptide or a recombinant protein codes for a recombinant antibody or a fragment thereof.

14. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The mammalian NSO cell line according to claim 13 wherein the sequence codes for the humanized recombinant antibody anti-EGF-R hR3 or a fragment thereof.

15-20. (canceled)